

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0027] As used herein, a group of the memory words at the same ~~position or location~~number in entries where one entry is composed of a plurality of words is hereinafter referred as a logical segment.

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[0029] In another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a content addressable memory having a function for storing a plurality of entries composed of a combination of a plurality of words and searching the entries for each logical segment, comprising: a plurality of memory blocks including a plurality of CAM words for storing the data of one word within the entries; and physical segments each including one or more memory blocks, each physical segment including: a search bit line; a plurality of one-word circuits ~~to be searched~~which search for a match between the data stored in the CAM word and search data driven on the search bit line to output a match flag which is a match or mismatch result; and a search bit line driver for driving the search bit line according to the search data, wherein, when search operation is executed (or performed), only the search bit line in a physical segment to be searched is driven by the search bit line driver.